

the Bullet

Volume 82, No. 14

Serving the Mary Washington Community since 1922.

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Warhol Exhibit

Column: Steroids and Baseball



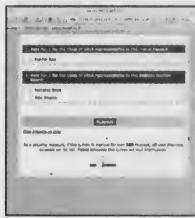
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February 12, 2009

Faulty Ballots Lead To Revote



A sample JRB online ballot

By JOHANNAH O'KEEFE
Staff Writer

The class of 2010 was scheduled to elect their Judicial Review Board representative on Mon., Feb. 9, but due to technical problems with the ballot, the election was postponed until the following day.

"There was a technical mishap in the sending of the ballot which caused it to go out to many people it shouldn't have," senior Nick Perilla, Board president, said.

Only students with junior class credits, 60-89 credits, should have received the ballot, but due to the glitch, non-juniors were able to vote along with the junior class.

Perilla explained that once the problem was identified, the survey was taken down and its results discarded.

According to Perilla, the glitch shouldn't have affected the number of students who voted the second time the ballot was sent out.

"This was a rather minor bump which was quickly resolved," Perilla said.

The results of the second ballot should accurately reflect the vote of the class of 2010 for the new representative.

An electronic ballot problem similar to this has never presented itself before in a UMW election, but the issue was identified quickly and the problem solved, before inaccurate results were included in official tallies.

Nicholas Scott and Alex Dearth ran for the position of JRB representative for the class of 2010.

A new survey was sent Tues., Feb. 10 only to members of the class of 2010 and the class's new Board representative will be announced should be announced today, Feb. 12.

Festival Sought Emergency Funding

Film Festival Funding Never Allocated; Committee Chairs Notified Day Before Event

By KAT SAUNDERS and HEATHER BRADY
Staff Writers

Only one day before the annual student film festival, Jonathan Stallings was surprised to find out that the Senate did not have the \$1,800 they believed they had been given to run the event.

According to Stallings, co-chair of the Student Senate Film Festival Committee, the Senate had received no money this year for the "Spectacle" due to a misunderstanding with the Finance Committee.

"Student Senate thought the funds had been allocated to our committee at the beginning of fall 2008," Stallings said. "What I believe was told to [the Senate] was that their budget was the same as last year, and that the film festival was a part of that. I believe that we were either overlooked by the Finance Committee, or the proper paperwork was not filled out for funding."

The Finance Committee had not allocated any funds to the festival last

year due to budget constraints. Last year, the annual committee budget, which is typically around \$500,000, was initially only \$400,000, according to Finance Committee Chair Ron Brooks. The additional money was withheld until the end of the summer.

"It was the first year we were really worried...we wouldn't get it," Brooks said. "We had to be really strict on the allocations we could give."

Funds must be allocated towards certain major events like Devil Goat Day.

"A lot of other events had to be put on the backburner, and the leaders of

those organizations were told to come back this year," Brooks said.

According to Student Senate President Ashley Davis, the Senate believed that they had received their usual funding, which always includes money for the festival.

"We hadn't met with the finance committee because we were under the impression that we had the funds, so there would be no need to meet with finance committee."

Davis said that she did not possess a hard copy of the budget, and that the Senate would do so in the future.

Verbal agreements and he-said, she-said statements are no guarantees, especially when it comes to money.

—Jonathan Stallings

Lee Hall Opening Set For March

By ERIC STEIGLEDER
Staff Writer

The Lee Hall renovation project completion date, originally slated to be in November 2008, has been pushed back until later this month.

At first, the contract allowed for 24 months of construction, according to Associate Vice President for Facilities Services John Wiltenmuth.

This was later revised to 19 months as per the advice of the design team. Construction has now taken close to 21 months.

However, according to Wiltenmuth, this is not an uncommon occurrence.

"Construction work is subject to delays from many causes," Wiltenmuth said in an e-mail. "The recently finished visitor center at the National Capitol and at the Capitol Building in Richmond were each a year or more later than originally planned. It happens at UMW, too."

Wiltenmuth said that nothing was stalling Lee Hall's completion beyond simple human error.

"The general contractor was not able to complete the work within the original

contract period," he said. "Work has not been postponed, rather it has taken longer to complete than planned."

Wiltenmuth denied that budget constraints contributed to the situation. He also stated that the funds used to pay for Lee Hall's renovation will in no way impede future renovation plans, such as those planned for Monroe Hall.

According to Wiltenmuth, with construction jobs of this magnitude there is no way to ensure an exact date of com-

pletion.

"We always try to improve processes," Wiltenmuth said. "But there are too many variables in procurement and construction to have complete control."

Both faculty and students have watched the Lee Hall renovations closely since construction began more than a year and a half ago, in May 2007.

Distinguished Professor of Religion David Cain became personally involved

when he learned that construction would take place and that the ballroom would undergo extensive renovation.

"For years I have admired the distinctive space of Ann Carter Lee Hall," Cain said. "When I learned of renovation plans, I styled myself the voice of the ballroom. I pleaded to the left and to the right on behalf of the space, but

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Lack of Public Parking Info Causes More Tickets

By MEGAN EICHENBERG
Staff Writer

A slight increase in the number of parking tickets issued on College Avenue is due to the opening of a new semester, and additional enforcement by city and UMW officers due to citizen concerns and student misunderstandings about parking initiatives, according to Susan Knick, the assistant vice president for public safety and community services.

To address this issue, the UMW police department put out a flyer educating students on parking policy and how to avoid getting ticketed during the spring semester.

While a change in rules allows residential students to park in commuter lots, residential students remain prohibited from parking on College Avenue at any time, including weekends.

Beginning Feb. 11, the student-oriented flyer will be available to officers who wish to use it, and copies will be

available in Brent House. Eventually, it will also be accessible online.

The flyer includes details such as on-campus parking rules, places where students commonly get caught violating parking regulations, and tips for off-campus parking.

"Contrary to what many may believe, we really don't want our community members to receive parking tickets," Knick said. "The flyer is just another level of communication to help people understand what they can and cannot do in order to avoid receiving a ticket."

The flyer contains several points concerning where students can park and what areas are restricted, including a reminder of the rule that there is no parking on the city of Fredericksburg's streets for students who live on-campus.

According to the university police website, residential students are prohibited from parking in College Heights. A listing titled "Restricted Parking Zone Streets in the City of Fredericksburg" is available on the University Police website.

University.

Commuter students are prohibited from parking in the same area by Fredericksburg City Ordinance Sec 58-173, with the exception of both sides of College Avenue.

Both residential and commuter students are allowed to park on Hanover Street on the Battleground side only from High Street to Sunken Road.

The ordinances also prohibit students from parking in College Heights. A listing titled "Restricted Parking Zone Streets in the City of Fredericksburg" is available on the University Police website.

Even if there is not a sign specifying UMW student parking, violators are still liable to be ticketed if caught parking on a restricted street without a proper parking permit.

According to the Fredericksburg city police website, UMW students who live

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Emily McAlpine/Bullet

Erin McCarley performs the opening act for Matt Nathanson on Saturday, Feb. 7, in Great Hall. Story on page 6.

Upcoming Events:

Bingo Night to Support Alternate Spring Break

Fri., Feb. 13 Great Hall, 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Goodnight Dedomona (Good Morning Juliet) Opening

Opening Thurs., Feb. 12
Klein Theatre
Tickets available now. Call to reserve,
540.654.1124.

Be an Orientation Leader

Applications to be an Orientation Leader are now being accepted. You can find the applications at the Information Desk near the Eagle's Nest and in OSACS. Applications are due by 3:30 on February 27, 2009.

UMW Bookstore Valentine's Day Gifts and Drawings

The UMW Bookstore has balloons, candy, cards, flowers and more for sale Feb. 13 and 14. And enter your name in a drawing for a chance to win a gift card to an area restaurant. No purchase necessary.

Cheap Seats

Fri., Feb. 13th-Sun., Feb. 15th, 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.
"Quantum of Solace" and "Twilight"

Events courtesy of OSACS. If you would like your event listed, contact The Bullet at newsxcrew@gmail.com. Send a flyer image if possible.



Police Beat

By JESS MASULLI
Staff Writer



Jan. 31-At 1:11 a.m., Campus Police were dispatched to Bushnell Hall. The officer found a 20-year-old fourth floor male that appeared to be intoxicated. The Fredericksburg Rescue Squad came, but the male was determined to not need medical attention. Residence Life was notified.

Feb. 2-At 4:41 a.m., Campus Police were called to the basement of Trimble Hall. The door window to Room 103 was broken. There appeared to be a hole kicked through the glass. The person was unable to gain entrance to the room through the hole. Glass was covering a desk near the door. The estimated cost of damages is \$50. There are no witnesses or suspects at this time.

Feb. 1-At 1:24 a.m., Campus Police received a call from the parking deck

security. Security reported that two males threw a bicycle down the fourth floor stairwell on the south side of the parking deck. They observed one of the males kick down a parking sign near Alvey Hall. Security stopped the freshman commuter students as they entered Alvey Hall. The students had been consuming alcohol, but were not intoxicated. They were referred to the administration.

Feb. 2-At 9:30 a.m., an officer was dispatched to Russell Hall for damages to a first floor bathroom and hallway. Ceiling tiles and a shower curtain had been ripped off. An emergency wall light had been torn down as well. A loud, possibly intoxicated, individual was heard at 2:30 a.m., but no one reported anything. The estimated cost of damage is \$425 and there are no suspects at this time.

Feb. 4-At 7:01 p.m., Virginia State Police called the Campus Police to inform them that there was an arrest warrant for a 23-year-old Westmoreland Hall male. The individual was not on campus at the time, but came directly to the campus police station upon arriving back on campus. The warrant was for attempting to purchase a firearm as a convicted felon.

Feb. 5-At 2:58 p.m., a 21-year-old Arrington Hall female reported that her ex-boyfriend had assaulted her on campus on Feb. 1 at 8:15 p.m. She refused to identify the male or press charges. The assault was documented for further reference, if needed.

Feb. 4-At 7:52 p.m., Campus Police were dispatched to the fourth

floor of Randolph Hall where a study room window had been broken. There was blood on the floor, which led through the hallway to a 20-year-old male's room. The resident stated that he accidentally broke the window. He had minor cuts on his hands, but refused medical treatment. The estimated cost of damage is \$200.

Feb. 7-At 11:37 a.m., it was reported to Campus Police that an air conditioner on the first floor of Russell Hall had been damaged. The grates were smashed and some were on the floor. The damage likely occurred between 1 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. The estimated cost of damage is \$200, and there are no suspects or witnesses at this time.

Lee Reopening Postponed to End of Month

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the final outcome remains to be seen." However, this extensive construction has also had a practical effect on the campus as well as an aesthetic one.

Ever since renovations began, various student services have been relocated across campus. The bookstore has moved to the Westmoreland Lawn, Health Services have moved to Mercer Hall, the University Police have moved to Brent House, and a host of other movements have taken place.

Seniors, who may or may not use Lee Hall as a space for commencement, potentially have the most to lose if the project is not completed on time.

And while Wittenmuth was steadfast in his assertion that the Lee Hall renovations would in no way impede commencement activities, it appears that many seniors are troubled not by possible graduation woes, but by the loss of what they feel made Lee Hall great.

"While I understand the necessity for architectural renovations and bringing the building up to date," senior Kaya Singleton said, "I wish there was a way to do so without changing the historical atmosphere."

This sentiment was echoed by fellow senior Emely Amaya.

"When I was a freshman and soph-

The renovations seem to be taking such a long time that I am worried that it will not be completed in time for graduation.

—Lauren Riley

“

While I understand how the space could be better utilized by partitioning the space, I always appreciated the grandeur of the ballroom.

Conversely, senior Sierra Stoney voiced a more practical concern.

"I think that Lee Hall is much more picturesque than ball circle, so I like that," she said. "All I can say about the renovations overall is that I didn't like how they interrupted some of my classes—the sound of sawing through stone is not conducive to understanding math in Trinkle."

This sentiment was echoed by fellow senior Emely Amaya.

"When I was a freshman and soph-

No Initial Funds for 'Spectacle'

• FILM, page 1

ernment Association President Sean O'Brien and OSACS Director Joe Mollo met Friday morning, Feb. 6, the day of the Festival, in order to resolve the issue.

"Sean and Mr. Mollo gave me the utmost respect and patience during the meeting and resolved the issue very quickly," Stalling said. "There are certain discretion funds available that can be used to resolve such problems that come up."

According to O'Brien, the discretionary funds are available in certain emergency situations similar to the one that the Film Festival Committee faced.

"The fund money is dedicated to student programming," O'Brien said. "And since Film Festival is a successful student program, Joe [Mollo] decided it would be a good use of funding."

O'Brien said they took the number of available funds and created an entirely new budget at the meeting on Friday.

"[They] were definitely prepared for this type of problem, and everything was fixed by noon on the day of the festival," Stalling said.

Due to the lack of funding, the Film Festival Committee had to return two of their raffle prizes, a DVD collection including "The Godfather," "The Graduate" and "Casablanca" and a Nikon Coolpix S210 camera, worth approxi-

mately \$200.

"We were still able to give away the four gift cards," Stalling said. "I have also recently told that the original \$900 prize money that is allocated to the winning filmmakers has been restored."

"I would like to make it clear that there is one person to blame," Davis said. "It was simply a misunderstanding that was solved immediately with the help of the Film Festival chairs as well as SGA and OSACS, and will not be repeated in the future."

The Film Festival Committee said that there were approximately nine submissions, and that around 300 people attended. First place was awarded to Darien Ruggles for his film "Under the Fountain," second place went to Marshall Schulte, Elsa Lee, and David Young for their film "Instigator," third place went to Darien Ruggles for his film "Memento De Prime Amor," and honorable mention went to Alice Davis and Jenn Arndt for their film "It's a Trap!"

"I think it was one of the most, if not the most, successful Spectacles we have ever had," Stalling said. "The attendance was great, and I would like to thank everyone that came and enjoyed themselves. It really means a lot to me and to the other filmmakers when people come out and appreciate their hard work and vision."



Above: The logo for this year's student film festival, "The Spectacle," which references the movie "Reservoir Dogs."

Correction

In "Senate to Host Film Festival" (Feb. 5), senior Johannah O'Keefe's last name was incorrectly spelled.

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Viewpoints

Avoiding Stereotypes in Honoring Black History

February is Black History Month, and UMW is very prepared.

There is a schedule full of events that are supposed to speak to Mary Washington students of all races about the history and culture of the black community.

And seeing as last year's freshman class comprised of 3 percent black students (according to the Princeton Review), this is definitely a month that is taken very seriously here.

However, on the list of events for the month-long celebration, which has been posted around campus and can be found on the University's website, there are a few events that are disconcerting and, to be honest, a little embarrassing.

For instance, an event called "Black Facts Jeopardy" took place last Monday. It's ridiculous that the student community at large would need a game of Jeopardy to learn facts about a different race, just to try to bridge the differences between that race and others represented on this campus. In choosing such a title, what may have been a well-intentioned session was met with little seriousness and a lot of shaking heads.

And who didn't cringe a little when they heard of the Feb. 26 "Plantation Dinner" that is to take place at Seacobek? Granted, it may be an entertaining, historically rich evening highlighting the major cultural devel-

opments that occurred in the black communities living during slave-times. But to tag an event with such a name demeans the event, its purpose, and our attempts to showcase the relevance of this period in our contemporary society. If we keep this up, Black History

Month at UMW may soon run the risk of being seen as a joke, and a very bad one at that.

We realize that it was obviously not the intention of the University or the James Farmer Multicultural Center to be offensive or divisive. Indeed, we are lucky to attend a university that considers cultural awareness such an important issue. But we clearly need to work on our delivery.

Many of us have likely seen the stone block on William Street that Fredericksburg's wealthy once stood upon to auction off slaves and other goods. It's a chilling relic from a dark spot in the history of our town and country, all the more so because of its simplicity. And it is as powerful every month of the year, not just February.

Bearing witness to the struggles of our nation's black community and highlighting its significant contributions need not be stone-faced and solemn. Still, we must be careful not to reinforce offensive and untrue stereotypes, which are capable of sullying even the best of intentions. And really, we can do better than "Black Facts Jeopardy."

Staff Editorial

Staff Editorial

Film Festival 'Short' Shows Insensitivity

BY CHELSIE MEREDITH
Guest Columnist

This year's student film festival, The Spectacle, featured shorts of comedy, intrigue and insightful information. Then there was one short that tastefully poked fun at the rape attack that took place at the school parking lot during the fall semester.

The film wasted time as it tried to create a sense of normalcy as well as a sense of the safety that every female student at Mary Washington should be able to feel when walking by herself.

The young girl in the film did not heed the advice of others and walked alone in the parking deck around nightfall; although this is unwise behavior, it is understandable. No one is 100 percent focused on their safety all of the time and it is easy to think that something dangerous can't or won't happen.

However, the video turned inappropriate when the young girl was being engaged by an attacker. The shot then turned into a simulation of a video game. The comparison of a girl being attacked and possibly raped to a thing that kids play in their homes is disgusting. Rape is not a subject that should be made light of, especially when such an attack occurred in that very parking garage.

Not only do the girl and attacker engage in a mock physical confrontation, but the supposedly educational video fails to mention any other ways that the girl could have defended herself. The blur at the end of the video merely challenges women to stand up for themselves, and while I fully support this, it should also be stated that fighting the attacker should be the final resort.

Websites such as reescape.com, defendu.com, and rad-systems.com all urge women to scream for help—even if the attacker threatens you not to

make a noise—yell the word "Fire," run away, and try to set up barriers between yourself and the attacker.

Fighting someone who is potentially armed and possibly stronger/bigger than you should be your last line of defense, not the first.

One of the short's most grievous mistakes, however, was when the young girl has a conflict within about whether to call for help.

When she decides to do so, a button explodes and pictures of an atom bomb explosion occupy the screen sending the message that she must fight for herself.

This is exactly the message that police, non-profit organizations, and society in general are trying to reiterate.

Since many victims do not report their assault, many rapists remain at large. This video just fed into the belief that women should not bother to report crimes against them because they won't be helped.

This is not true.

I understand it is a horrible experience, but victims should understand that help is out there and will come if they step forward.

Our own UMW police are available and want to help. If you are a student worried to walk alone at night, call them. They will come and escort you to your car, building, etc. If an attack is committed against you, tell them. It is their job to ensure the safety of each student, staff person, and faculty member on this campus.

I personally hated this video for making fun of an issue as sensitive as rape, particularly after the two attacks on our own campus.

I hope that if these film makers plan on making an educational short in next year's competition, they are at least competent enough to give correct and helpful information.

Chelsie Meredith is a sophomore.

Letter to the Editor: Housing Policy Is a Must

The following letter was written in response to "Co-ed Dorm Rooms Are Inappropriate" (Feb. 5, 2009, the Bullet).

Dear Editor:

In deciding how best to respond to Mrs. Anderson's misunderstanding of the gender-neutral living community on campus, we have decided to explain the actual necessity of the community.

The misconception that gender-neutral housing would be randomly assigned to incoming freshman appears to be our biggest educational hurdle to cross. This living community, only available to upper-classmen, per Residence Life policy, would operate just as the foreign language floors in Madison. These living communities require an application to Residence Life and proven interest in living in this community, promoting education about gender variance. We find it hard to believe that a hormone-fueled heterosexual couple would go through an application process for a program they did not care about simply to have coital relations. Residence Life has ensured that everyone on the list of participants in the living community are not simply taking advantage of premium living. These participants, per University policy, will continue to live in single-sex suites, but will live in a community fostering open dialogue of gender neutrality.

We would like to thank Mrs. Anderson for pointing to the Virginia Code to, once again, show her concerns for the community. We would like to

point out that the intent of the community is to educate, not to "lewdly and lasciviously associate and cohabit together." No offense to Virginia Code, but much of the sexual activity on campus is between heterosexuals that live in different rooms. Students wishing to copulate are not in need of a gender-neutral living community to do so.

But why do students need this opportunity? These students seek to further education of the growing idea in higher education that gender exists on a continuum, not a binary. For some students, segregation by a gender with which they do not identify, but must live with due to societal expectations, is unfair. These students deserve the right to focus on their college experience, rather than worry about their personal safety when living in the proximity of closed-mindedness.

We respectfully remind you all that if aren't comfortable with the idea of the gender-neutral living community, don't apply to live there.

Anthony DiRenzo is a senior and president of PRISM. Charlie Girard is a freshman and chair of Gender-Neutral Living Community. Brendon Bottle is a junior and vice-president of PRISM.

Further response to "Co-ed Dorm Rooms Are Inappropriate" can be found on page 4 and online at umwbullet.com.

**the
Bullet**

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Letter and Editorial Policy

The *Bullet* is always eager to receive letters to the editor and guest columns, and every effort is made to print them.

Letters should be submitted the Monday before publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words, and columns should not exceed 700 words.

We will not publish anonymous submissions. Letters must include a phone number and address for purposes of verification. They can be mailed to the *Bullet* at 1701 College Avenue, Fredericksburg, VA, 22401-4666, delivered to our office in Seacobek Hall or sent to our email address at bullet@umw.edu. Opinions expressed in columns or letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff. Contact the *Bullet* at 540-654-1133.



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Viewpoints

Sex-ed Videos: Funny but Unhelpful

I remember when I took my first sex-education "course." I was 10 and in the fifth grade. With a somber expression, Mrs. Nickels ushered us girls out of the room to the next door fifth-grade class. We passed a line of confused boys who were heading to our classroom.

Split from the embarrassment of being around the opposite sex, the other teacher, Mrs. Browne, began with saying that we were to watch an informational video called "Know Your Body," which was about our bodies and how the issues covered in the film were not only helpful to understand what would be happening to us over the years but also to our fellow classmates.

After the lackluster introduction, she turned on the television, flipped out the lights, and stood behind the class, monitoring anyone who dared snicker at the very important issues at hand: breast development, periods, and the growth of hair in funny places, all taught by a naive young woman named Jenny and her understanding mother.

But the best part was yet to come. After Jenny had conquered all of her fears and misunderstandings about her body, we moved on to young Daniel who was acting kind of funny before going to school. His father asked if there was something wrong and Daniel, in a very hesitant state, confided in his dad that something had gone horribly horribly wrong the night before. Apparently, along with shaving, changing voices, and uncontrollable erections, young boys also have "wet dreams," a perfectly normal side effect of growing up.

When the films were finished, the girls from my class and I walked back down the hall, passing the same boys as they returned to their class. All of our eyes stared curiously at their crotches, while all snickered and ogled where our breasts were to grow.

Despite the wonderful incorporation of film with sexual education, such films as "Know your Body" are apparently not very effective. According to thenationalcampaign.org, approximately one million teens become pregnant each year in

the United States, with approximately 520,000 births, 405,000 abortions, and 80,000 miscarriages.

Along with high pregnancy rates, we are also dealing with a huge number of STD cases.

I came across a *Washington Post* article about the sex-education curricula in Western Europe. The percentage of teens who get pregnant in the Netherlands is less than a fifth of the percentage of pregnant teens here in the U.S.

So what's the difference? Besides generally having families that are open to discuss sexual issues with their children at very young ages, there is a social acceptance of sexual activity throughout Europe, thus feeding the stereotypes many Americans have with the romantic French and sexy British.

But the most notable difference is the huge encouragement of using contraceptives, even at the young ages of 10 to 12. I didn't even know what a condom was until I was thirteen or that there were condoms that women could put on.

Europeans also incorporate straightforward messages on how to prevent STDs and teen pregnancy, which helps offset the impact on teens of sexually explicit ads, movies and other mass media.

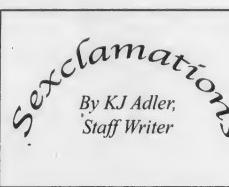
While I did find myself taken aback by the European tactics, especially with how young a lot of these kids begin to learn about sex, the statistics don't lie. From the article I found that the key component to Europe's success was consistency. Teachers, families, society alike advocated the idea of safe sex rather than abstinence.

Now it is true that the safest way from any sort of disease or unwanted baby is by keeping your legs shut, but people still seem to enjoy taking the risk. I'm not saying that abstinence isn't the right way for some people. Rather, I'm saying that sex does happen and in encouraging safety and proper usage of condoms, all of the problems we seem to still have with teen pregnancy could be greatly reduced.

However, I think those sex videos should still be shown. They're priceless.



Justin Toney / Bullet



By KJ Adler,
Staff Writer

Playlists Provide a Mix of Emotions

For an unabridged chronicle of Susannah Clark's love life, just open up my iTunes.

There they are, in alphabetical order: 12 playlists, each named after every boy I've ever dated, wooed, rejected, led on, worshiped and cried over.

The playlists are actually mix CDs I engineered for these boys; they are the only way I know how to make myself vulnerable at the beginning stages of courtship. The mixes tend to have a balance of songs I think the boy in question would enjoy, as well as personal classics of mine that they'd better enjoy if they're remotely considering a relationship. There's usually a lot of Paul Simon.

The mix CD is like a litmus test: if he still wants to date me after I put a song from "A Goofy Movie" on there, maybe I've found The One.

Every time I scroll down to play a song on iTunes, I am reminded of clammy hand-holding, first (and final) kisses, and sleepless nights spent analyzing cryptic voice-mails.

There's the Guy Who Only Listened to U2, the Guy Who Thought Limp Bizkit Did the Original "Behind Blue Eyes," the Guy Who Had Never Read "High Fidelity," and perhaps most heinously: The Guy Who Didn't Listen to the Beatles, just to name a few. All available to click-and-drag at my leisure.

Saturday is Valentine's Day and I have no one to make a mix CD for. Rather than dwell on my current playlists of mistakes and misfortune, I've decided that I'm going to be proactive and clear my hard drive of any lingering romantic feelings. It's time to move on, and nip the ones that hurt me, let alone the ones I managed to hurt.

If Mark, Tom and Travis can make it through mediocre side projects and near fatal plane crashes, maybe one day I'll be able to peacefully share a record collection with the Guy Who Didn't Listen to The Beatles.

And if not, there's still 14 gigabytes left on my iPod; plenty of room for years to come new crushes and broken hearted playlists.



Susannigans
By Susannah Clark,
Associate Editor

“
The mix CD is like a litmus test...”
”



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Letter to the Editor: Sex, Gender Not the Same

The following letter was written in response to "Co-ed Dorm Rooms Are Inappropriate" (Feb. 5, 2009, the Bullet).

Dear Editor:

I just read the column in the *Bullet* concerning the Gender Neutral Housing Community for next year.

Beyond my initial blind rage over Rebekah Anderson bringing politics and debates of morality into the discussion, and the fact that someone is saying these things to potential students and their parents, I realized that the article was based around some serious misconceptions.

First, there is a difference between sexual orientation and gender identity.

Basically, to whom an individual is attracted and the way in which an individual presents themselves are completely unrelated. LGBT stands for "lesbian," "gay," "bisexual," and "transgender." The first three have to do with sexual orientation; the last has to do with gender identity.

Yes, the communities are related, but being transgender is not the same as being gay. Some transgender people are straight.

This housing is about gender identity.

Second, there needs to be some clarification as to the reasons behind the housing. I know most of the people on the planning committee, and I even took part in some of it.

I was there for the discussions of why this is needed.

Imagine this scenario:

You are biologically female but you do not identify as a woman.

You are signing up for campus housing without a specific roommate, like many students do. You must apply as female because only sex, not gender, is counted when it comes to housing. You have all of the usual worries about a random roommate,

such as whether or not your roommate will like to party until all hours of the night if your roommate will "borrow" your last package of Ramen without asking.

You also have to worry as to whether your random roommate will call you by your preferred pronouns, or if your roommate will be uncomfortable or even outright hostile with you because your gender and your sex don't quite line up the way people expect.

As one such individual whose gender identity does not perfectly match up with biological sex, I know how stressful this situation can be.

I can only imagine the stress for people who use other pronouns or a different name from their birth name, etc.

The Gender Neutral Housing Community is designed to alleviate these fears.

It is a specific living community that one must apply for, similar to a scholar's community or a foreign language living community.

Anyone who does not want to be there absolutely will not be housed there.

This gender neutral housing is a way to know that your roommate will not call you derogatory names because of your gender identity.

It has nothing to do with wanting to live with your significant other.

It has everything to do with personal safety and comfort.

While I personally find it unfair that we do not have male-only buildings, we have all-female buildings for both freshmen and upperclassmen (Virginia and Ball Halls).

I do not know Rebekah Anderson or her class status, but if she is not graduating this year, I would strongly suggest looking into these particular dorms.

Priscilla Appel is a junior.

Entertainment

Dawn of War 2 Delivers

Popular Computer Game Sequel Lives up to Predecessor

By CHRIS GAINOR
Staff Writer

"Dawn of War 2" makes an interesting twist on the Real Time Strategy genre.

The standard process of building up bases has been replaced with the fly upgrading of units and leveling of units. "Dawn of War 2" is shaping up to be another outstanding game.

"Dawn of War 2" is currently out in beta for the general public. The beta contains four playable races, two modes of multiplayer and five maps. The playable races are the Space Marines, Orks, Eldar and Tyranids. Each race has three Commander units, varying in roles between offensive, defensive and support.

The two multiplayer modes are Annihilate and Victory Point Control. Annihilate is the simple destruction of your opponent's headquarters. Victory Point Control starts with both teams at 500 points, as your team gains strategic points on the map.

As long as your team has one more strategic point than your opponent, the points will begin to decrease. The game is over once the points reach zero. The strategic points easily change hands, which makes the battles a constant struggle.

Each of the five maps is fairly balanced. Strewn about each map are Requisition nodes and Power nodes. Both of these are resources required for the building of the units.

Just as the strategic points, the resource nodes switch hands easily and must be defended. Terrain can provide cover for units lowering damage taken from opponents. This becomes an important strategy in battles.

The combat of "Dawn of War 2" is focused on keeping units alive. Each loss of a unit is a loss of a valuable investment of the unit costs, equipment costs, and experience.

Use of cover, use of equipment based on what is being attacked, and maintaining resources are all

keys to victory.

"Dawn of War 2" is showing strong signs of being just as strong as the first. In the competitive field of real time strategy, balance is necessary to create a game that is reliant on the player's skill. "Dawn of War 2" is achieving this balance and testing the skills of players. The full game is being released Feb. 19.



image courtesy of langaria.net

Spring Procrastination:

Five Shows to Make You Abandon Your Studies

By ANDREW CAMPBELL
Staff Writer

As the spring semester gets underway and assignments start to get increasingly more serious, you might be wondering what there is to do in your free time during the week. It's necessary to take breaks whenever engaging in heavy academic study and this spring a few hot television shows will be gearing up with new episodes.

For those of you who enjoy food and travel, new episodes of "Anthony Bourdain: No Reservations" air on the Travel Channel at 10 p.m. Join Bourdain as he traverses the globe, landing in various exotic locales to experience the culture and cuisine. Not only is the mixture of food and culture entertaining, but many viewers also enjoy the sarcastic disposition Bourdain maintains while sampling a variety of strange foods.

Next up is a perennial favorite for many viewers, especially those who love to watch people struggle with their illusions of talent. A new season of "American Idol" can be seen on Tuesdays on FOX at 8 p.m. "American Idol's" popularity stems

from its humorous depiction of those without talent struggling in front of the widely known judges in order to rise to fame. Another seemingly favorite reason to watch "American Idol" aside from the awesomely horrible singing (most of the time), is the fact that because so many people audition you are bound to find someone from your area to follow and pull for to see just how far they get.

Probably one of the funniest contemporary animated shows, new episodes of "Family Guy" can be seen on Sundays at 9 p.m. on FOX. I haven't met a person yet who doesn't at least find some humor in the ridiculous situations in which the Griffins find themselves. Whether it be the family's constant barrage of insults towards Meg or the consistently funny situations in which Stewie seems to be involved, "Family Guy" is sure to keep you laughing and provide a soothing alternative to completing the daunting load of school work that is ahead.

New episodes of "House" will be airing Wednesdays on FOX at 8 p.m. This is for those out there who enjoy the thrilling medical dramas rem-

iniscent of "E.R.," while at the same time offering you the almost unreal arrogance of the talented yet gruff Dr. Gregory House. "House" has received critical as well as commercial acclaim and proves year in and year out to be one of the top television dramas to watch out for.

Finally and arguably the best show on the list, new episodes of "The Office" can be seen Thursdays at 9 p.m. on NBC. This highly character driven adaptation of the British original has proven to be one of the funniest, if not the funniest television shows to air in a while. The blatant crude antics of Michael Scott as well as the plethora of hilarious situations and jokes that get packed into every episode will be sure to have you hooked and provide a much anticipated reason to gather with friends and watch as the seasons stories unfold.

These are just a few of the currently running



image courtesy of mspalit.com

spring 2009 television shows. The handful mentioned here are guaranteed to keep you entertained, whether it be the serious drama of "House" or the ridiculously humorous "The Office" or "Family Guy." These should provide just enough enjoyment for the much needed breaks from the monotony of schoolwork.

Return to Relevancy:

Top 10 Reasons the Grammys Mattered This Year

By RYAN MARR
Staff Writer

After years of bottomed-out ratings, slumping record sales, and losing the respect of everyone except for maybe Chris Martin, The National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences have finally woken up from their self-induced coma of total musical irrelevance.

Well, sort of.

Despite once again showering the Grammy hardware onto major label acts like Robert Plant & Alison Krauss (who are actually good), Coldplay and Lil Wayne, the 2009 Grammys revealed some promising moments of surprising relevancy:

1. Radiohead:

Kudos to the Grammys for finally acknowl-

edging—albeit a decade too late—the existence of the greatest band in the world. Despite Gwyneth Paltrow's cringe-worthy introduction, Thom Yorke's seizure-inducing dance freak-out to the University of Southern California marching band showed soulless geezers everywhere what music actually sounds like.

2. Blink-182 Reunion:

In the most anti-climatic way possible—while introducing the Jonas Brothers—Tom DeLonge and co. apparently announced their reunion intentions. I, for one, blinked and missed the whole thing. Nevertheless, Blink performing "What's My Age Again?" is totally going to kick serious ass while simultaneously taking on a whole new meaning of relevancy.

3. Kid Rock:

Leave it to Kid Rock—essentially the spokesperson of relevancy—to lead the Grammys into the future. Just talking about Kid Rock ripping into "Sweet Home Alabama" with an American Flag draped over his back is plucking my tender American-as-apple-heartstrings with sweet patriotic fervor.

4. Pregnant Rappers:

Nine months into her pregnancy, M.I.A. still has nastier dance moves than you. It's too bad she didn't give birth on stage—the Grammys would have found the answer to their never-ending rating's woes.

5. Genius Collaborations:

I can't decide which performance was more relevant. The Jonas Brothers with Stevie Wonder or that totally insane hodgepodge of Al Green, Justin Timberlake, Keith Urban, and Boyz II Men. Either way, America won—or fainted. Thank you, Chris Brown.

6. Fashion Trend-setting:

Even with Kanye West's mullet and Jennifer Hudson's dinner-napkin-dressing thing crowding the nominees, Coldplay still managed to come out on top in this category too. If only dawning 18th century faux-Russian military costumes somehow translated into making album's that weren't mediocre.

7. Musically Relevant Speakers:

The Grammys really outdid themselves here. I mean, seriously. Notable speakers included: LL Cool J, Queen Latifah, Morgan Freeman, and Samuel L. Jackson. They even got the Rock to drop some musical knowledge. In fact, I challenge you to come up with a more relevant list of speakers for a musical awards show and then convince them to make half-hearted attempts at humor via "I Kissed a Girl" jokes. Genius.

image courtesy of stephaniemorsworthy.com



image courtesy of mspalit.com

8. Sir Paul:

As further proof that Ringo Starr is actually dead, Paul McCartney recruited Foo Fighter Dave Grohl to pound the camel-skins on his rendition of "I Saw Her Standing There." If Ringo is still in fact alive, I'm sure he was okay with his replacement. He understands the Grammys quest towards relevancy. Now, if he would just pass that memo to Bono.

9. Jaw-Dropping Visuals:

Katy Perry descended to the stage in a giant banana. Three days later, my mouth is still catching flies.

10. Taylor and Miley:

Okay so now it's official: Taylor Swift-1, Miley Cyrus-0.



image courtesy of freewebs.com

Entertainment

Nathanson Tears Up Great Hall

By TRICIA CALLAHAN
Staff Writer

Last Friday at 7 p.m. doors opened for the Matt Nathanson concert in Great Hall.

While people began piling in, I was tucked away in a side room waiting to interview Nathanson. The room smelled organic, with grapes, random mayo packets, and mixed nuts set up on a table.

"Want a nut?" asked Nathanson pointing the container toward me. Happily, I obliged.

He was wearing a trucker hat with a skateboard beaver which completely matched his off-beat sense of humor. I noticed lyrics scribbled on his hand.

"I was inspired by Sebastian Bach while driving," he said, noticing my interest in the scribbles.

Nathanson is the kind of guy that says "Getting to sing with the Indigo Girls" was a career highlight.

When Jamie Kenney, keyboard player for opening act Erin McCarley, realized he was sitting next to an "Indigo Girls" fan the two musicians ranted for about 5 minutes and concluded that they would one day "hold hands at an Indigo Girls concert."

The video for Nathanson's hit song "Come on get higher" is getting huge play on VH1.

"I'll tell you the cool thing about that music video is I got to make it with a model," he said,

only half joking. I walked into the crowd and eventually Erin

seemed really vulnerable; wiping her palms against her pants in-between each song while com-

Suzanne Vega's "Tom's Diner" while her Kennedy beat-boxed the background music.

After McCarley came the night's highlight act and Nathanson did not hold back any of the personality I saw prior to the show.

He claimed his first song was about Fredericksburg and later on when he said another song was inspired by a bear, it became apparent that he was joking.

His arm bounced across the strings from the top to the bottom of the guitar while his body rocked back and forth proving that this 35-year-old musician was full of boundless energy.

After strumming the first note of his song "Still," a group of girls started wailing and he stopped playing to ask if someone in the audience was getting mauled by a wolverine.

After he stopped the song twice, the girls figured out that unless they stopped screaming, the song wasn't going to start. There was good reasoning behind their high-pitched screams; it was one of the most romantic numbers played that night. Matt swears it was inspired by an episode of "Gossip Girl."

Maybe everyone didn't walk out of the show feeling like they had "just saw the Stones" like Nathanson said he hoped for before the show, but it seemed like everyone was pretty damn happy.



Emily McAlpine/Bullet

McCarley took the stage. Her voice was pure and her sound reminded me of a band called The Frames. With simple songs about heartbreak she

plaining about writing one song on the set list twice.

The highlight was her awesome rendition of

Warhols On Display at UMW

Original Pop Artist's Screen Prints in Ridderhof Martin

By RYAN MARR
Staff Writer

Andy Warhol—perhaps the only veritable household name in American art—pioneered the trail of pop culture into the canon of "high art" and was arguably the most influential artistic tastemaker of his generation.

Now, through Feb. 26, UMW students have the opportunity to check out Warhol's lasting legacy at the Ridderhof Martin Gallery on campus.

The exhibition, entitled "Andy Warhol's Athletes: Portraits From the Richard Weisman Collection," opened this past Tuesday, Feb. 9 with a book signing by Weisman, a renown art patron and close friend of the late Warhol.

Weisman's new book "Picasso to Pop: The Richard Weisman Collection" neatly catalogues Weisman's expansive collection—including the works of Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein and Norman Rockwell—in a hardcover coffee-table center-

piece.

Needless to say, the arrival of a collection of Warhol's paintings on campus has created a lively buzz among the Fredericksburg community.

According to Gallery Visitor's Services Coordinator Megan Parry, the exhibition has created a

Warhol's works will be on display in Ridderhof Martin Gallery through Feb. 26

considerable amount of hype for the gallery as well.

"Students who have had the opportunity to work this exhibit have been incredibly excited," Parry said. "It's Warhol. Hopefully this enthusiasm will generate excitement for future exhibitions at

the Gallery."

Doug Kissing, Assistant Supervisor at the DuPont Gallery, especially enjoyed working on the exhibit.

"My favorite Warhol piece is the portrait of Muhammad Ali," Kissing said. "It really portrays one of America's most famous boxers in a startling way."

The series immortalizes the faces of many well-known athletes from Warhol's era, including Dorothy Hamill, Pele, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and even O.J. Simpson.

Yet the act of choosing a favorite portrait from the series proved more difficult for Weisman, who claims he provided Warhol with the idea to paint famous athletes.

Image courtesy of duckhenge.oregon.edu
"I like all my paintings equally," Weisman said.
"They're like children. I can't pick a favorite."



Film Festival Flops

SGA-Sponsored 'Spectacle' Disappoints

By DAVE GALLAGHER
Staff Writer

The 6th annual UMW Student Film Fest was this past Friday, but don't feel bad if you missed it.

The festival, put on by the Student Senate, was a chance for UMW students with interests in film to showcase their talents.

The eight submitted films were shown on Friday night at an event called "The Spectacle" in Dodd Auditorium. And quite a spectacle it was.

"I was actually surprised how unprofessional it was," said Andrew Bennett, a senior attendee, referring to the quality of the films. "I guess I just went in expecting better films."

Of the nine films shown, only a few had discernible plot lines. The first film, if it could be called that, seemed like more of an experiment with a new webcam.

Darren Ruggles's "Earthquake" left me speechless, not because of his beautiful cutaway shot or dutch tilt (two terms I learned on the Internet service) but because I was unaware such low quality films were being shown. It was a comedic look at what it's like to live through an earthquake in Mexico. And it wasn't even funny.

"The Spectacle" was presented in a "muck Oscar" fashion, with the filmmakers making their way into Dodd Auditorium from a limousine after being interviewed by Kiana Anthony and Anthony DiRenzo, the hosts of the show.

By far, the most thoughtful and most interest-

ing video was for Students Helping Honduras, although it was an unjudged submission.

I personally think it would have been most beneficial for SHH to win first place in the competition considering the \$400 prize money at stake.

Antonio Barrenechea, associate professor of English and film studies, was one of the judges for the festival. In his third year as a judge, Barrenechea said that while he thought the festival went very well, the quality of the films may have suffered because of fewer submissions.

"Some of them were very

good from a technical standpoint and some were very good from a narrative standpoint," Barrenechea said. However, he also admitted, "no one film really achieved excellence" in both spheres.

Barrenechea cited Jonathan Stalling's eerie "#9" as a technically strong film and Ruggles' "Beneath the Fountain," which went on to win first place, as a strong narrative-based submission.

Barrenechea hopes to see a higher number of submissions to the festival in future years. Hopefully, the student body will create a higher turnout of films next year.

With more submissions, the UMW Student Film Fest will continue to grow and become more and more competitive. And with more interest and support from the school, the festival will, with any luck, flourish in years to come.

Valentine's Day is on Saturday.

If your girl-friend told you she doesn't care if you do anything or not, she lied.

Trust us.



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Features



KJ Adler/Bullet

Potomac High School's step team, Prestige, performed as movie theater workers at UMW's 20th Annual Step Show Competition.

Steppin', Stompin'

By KJ ADLER
Staff Writer

With over 400 people cheering them on, eight high schools and three fraternities stepped, clapped and danced in unison either to recorded music, without music, or simply to the rhythm of their own chants.

High school and collegiate step teams from all over Virginia met at Dodd Auditorium on Feb. 7 to compete in UMW's 20th annual Step Show Competition.

Along with a combination of creative, quick moves, many of the teams also introduced their routines with short skits that were thematic in their costuming and cheers.

As they performed, the audience would shout out words of encouragement and exclamations as the teams performed difficult moves. During instances where the teams paused for a few beats, often in noticeably uncomfortable positions, the crowd called out: "Hold it! You got it!"

"I wish I could join a step team," UMW senior Caitlin Butter said at intermission. "I wish I could move like that. I love this competition. It's so entertaining. I come to it every year."

The Step Show Competition was sponsored and run by Women of

Color and Brothers of a New Direction (BOND).

This year President of BOND Bryant Taylor '09 and WOC President Krystal Jackson '10 helped to host the event with MC Clifton Taylor.

"I think we had a great turn-out though I thought our UMW participation was low," Taylor said. "I think the audience had a great time and learned a lot about stepping, which is an interesting part of African American culture, and also learned about African American Greek life."

The first half of the competition was between high schools Green Run, Central of Lunenburg, Chancellor, Gar-Field, NVU's Icons, King George, Courtland, Herndon, and Potomac.

The second half of the show was between the Fraternities Omega Psi Phi from James Madison University, Alpha Phi Alpha from Virginia Tech University, and Phi Beta Sigma from Virginia State University.

Potomac High School's group, Prestige, dressed as movie theater workers and with movie themed props and sound effects, stomped and clapped in surprisingly intricate movements.

The Courtland High Steppers marched in Army fatigues and performed a part of their routine blindfolded.

See STEP, page 8 ▶

UMW's Enigma

Color guard team prepares for competition

By CHRISTINA LAMBERT
Staff Writer

Imagine being asked to dance to a song as you twirl equipment such as flags, rifles, and sabres, all while smiling, counting the beats of the song, keeping your chin up, pointing your toes, and not dropping anything.

Too hard? Not for Mary Washington's color guard team, Enigma, which accomplishes this at practice three times a week and in front of hundreds of people during competitions.

Spinning flags and rifles is nothing out of the ordinary for Enigma. Comprised of 14 women, the color guard team practices in the auxiliary gym, perfecting their routine to songs like "Disturbia," by Rihanna.

Enigma first started in 2002, and since then the team has been growing in numbers and in status. The UMW color guard has gone from being novices to vanquishing the college of William and Mary and Longwood University at their most recent com-

petition at Broad Run.

But forming such a team was not easy. The team, led by seniors Amy Edwards and Jackie Connors, first started looking for new members at Club Carnival at the beginning of the fall semester. All those who signed up met several times and gave input as to what this year's show should be.

"We want the new members to have

just as much say as we do," Edwards said.

At the end of last year, team members suggested songs that they hoped to see featured for the next year. Captains Edwards and Connors kept these songs in mind and presented them to the new members in the fall.

After hearing each song, all members were allowed to vote, and "Disturbia" came out victorious.

Since October, Enigma has been practicing hard to develop a routine to "Disturbia," which they agree was truly a cohesive effort. Members were assigned into groups by Connors and were each given a section of the routine to work on, such as dance, flag, or sabre.

"I think one of our biggest strengths is the opportunity for everyone to have a say in the show," Connors said.

After a few weeks, each group taught their routine to the rest of the team. Bringing each part together formed the complete routine, which

Some of our team hadn't touched a flag until this year.

—Jackie Connors



Christina Lambert/Bullet

An Enigma member prepares for a recent competition.

See COLOR, page 8 ▶

Meet the Underground Fraternity



Courtesy of Jim Platner

Left to right: Jonathon Hillyard, Justin Schlessinger, Jay Colligan, Jim Platner, Reed Pannell, Dorsey Quarles, Joe Cirena, DJ Lockwood, Teddy Petrocci, and Kendall Scott walked during the SHH Walkathon in 2007.

By ROBYN GIANNINI
Staff Writer

Answering an interview question about Psi Upsilon, UMW's unofficial fraternity, freshman Kelly Whelan inquired, "What fraternity?"

Asked again, Whelan stated, "...I don't think about the fraternity. I don't go there, I don't even think about it."

Psi Upsilon, a nationally recognized fraternity, has a charter at the University of Mary Washington, although its existence is not officially recognized by the College due to a mandate in the constitution of the University that requires all clubs to be co-ed. In other words, Psi Upsilon would have to allow girls to join the fraternity in order to be recognized by the University, something that does not typically characterize the traditions of a fraternity.

Members of Psi Upsilon are disengaged with the negative sentiments and stereotypes that UMW students often attribute to the fraternity. The brothers of Psi Upsilon would rather prefer to be recognized for their positive social and service-related contributions that the fraternity provides for the Mary Washington campus and

greater Fredericksburg community. Jim Platner, the current president of the Mary Washington chapter of Psi Upsilon, explained that Psi Upsilon is one of the oldest and most prestigious fraternities in the country, one of which President Howard Taft was actually a member.

"There is a general nationally negative connotation for a 'frat,'" Platner said. "A frat is a very derogatory term. [...] We like to enforce the positive connotations of a 'fraternity.' We're not, you know, a bunch of heathens."

Platner emphasized that, first and foremost, the most important aspect of a fraternity is its sense of community and brotherhood.

"There are very few opportunities where 10 or 15 guys that are just coming to the school who would otherwise never meet can bond and become like family," he said.

Platner, who attends various conferences across the U.S., where he meets with other Psi Upsilon fraternity members, explained that the "family" aspect of the fraternity extends to a national level.

"We've got an alumni directory with tens of thousands of names in it, and basically brothers can call alumni from a different schools who are in-

volved in their professional career, or something they're interested in doing, and they'll hook them up with a job or an internship," Platner said. "It's really something special to walk into a room with 300 or 400 guys and have an instant connection with all of them, as able to talk with all of them about

anything...it really is like a family."

Will Talbot, secretary of Psi Upsilon, emphasized the importance of the fraternity not only in establishing lifelong friendships, but also for providing academic support.

"We have people taking every type

of class, so there's always someone to help you out," Talbot said, who, as a biology major, often tutors younger fraternity brothers who are having trouble with their studies.

Talbot said he originally perceived a fraternity in a negative way.

"[Like a] very elite, exclusive social group, kind of stuck up to their own ideals, like, you know, the fraternity douche-bag," he said. "But meeting the people here, I knew right away that I'd be missing an opportunity not to do this, not to get to know these people better, because you can tell that everyone who was in the fraternity was a family."

Not only does Psi Upsilon give social and academic support for its members, Mary Washington's underground fraternity is incredibly active with service activities on both the campus itself, as well as the surrounding Fredericksburg area. Psi Upsilon was awarded the "Clasped Hands Award" three times within the past five years for its community service contributions.

The fraternity is directly responsible for organizing the Red Ribbon Campaign and the White Flag Campaign, two organizations that provide assistance to victims of domestic abuse. In the greater Fredericksburg

area,

Psi Upsilon participates in service organizations that include Rappahannock River Cleanup, Habitat for Humanity, and the Jimmy Schmidt Foundation, a widely-recognized organization promoting stem cell research.

"We do a lot of stuff, together," said Daniel Kaufman, a Psi Upsilon brother. "And it's more fun as a group...service sort of sucks, if you're the only one out there, but if you're out there with fifteen to twenty other guys that you know, it can be a lot of fun."

UMW's Psi Upsilon devotes an entire week to community service each November.

However Platner and the other members of Psi Upsilon are discouraged by the negative stereotypes that continue to follow the fraternity.

As would be expected, the majority of members are convinced that their fraternity is "different," insisting that the negative stereotypes that might apply to other fraternities simply do not apply to their own. Specifically, Platner commented that one of the professors at UMW teaches a class involving a book entitled "Fraternity Gang Rape."

"There have never been any instances of any form of sexual abuse or rape," Platner said. "Never through us, and we would not tolerate that under any circumstance."

Talbot was equally frustrated with the negativity that is continually associated with the fraternity.

"Basically the stereotype is a bunch of preppy guys who are just wild and whose entire life revolves around getting drunk and getting girls wasted and 'rookie-ing' girls and stuff like that, you know, but that is not by any means our organization," he said. "I mean, granted, we do party, but that is not by any means our primary focus."

When questioned on the primary focus of the fraternity, Talbot commented that the fraternity's primary focus was to "socially help our school and community."

Psi Upsilon brother John Russo, sophomore, also commented that the "partying" aspect of the fraternity is not at all the defining factor of the fraternity, but that it actually helped him to mature.

"I feel like I've matured a lot more," Russo said. "Like, I came here with the mindset, 'Oh, this is college, I'm going to wall out and party a lot,' and then it's like, I meet a group of guys who will party, but at the same time will buckle down and focus on school, because obviously that's what we're here for."

All the members of Psi Upsilon emphasize that the fraternity is beneficial to not just them, but the entire Mary Washington community.

Kaufman sums up his sentiments by saying "Psi Upsilon has defined my college experience...when I think back to college, that's what I'm going to think about."

Color Guard

◀ COLOR, page 7

Enigma showcased this past Saturday at a competition in Ashburn, Va., where it was awarded fourth place.

"I was very happy with it. I think we were very prepared for it," Connors said.

This promising start of the season has paid for the hard work put into practice, but has also prompted the urge to improve performance and technique.

"Every team wants to do better from the first time they step out," Edwards said.

While the Enigma members may make tossing flags into the air look easy, there are challenges such as dropping equipment, tricky dance moves, and sprained wrists and ankles. The team will be practicing to overcome such trials before they compete again.

"My expectations for the rest of the season is to keep growing as a team and develop the show into the best it can be," Edwards said.

Another challenge to the team was that each member had different levels of experience with color guard. While some members could spin with grace, others got a flag twisted in their fingers.

"We come from many guard backgrounds, which creates disparity in the

little things, leading to a lack of cohesiveness for the group as a whole," Connors said.

The remainder of the season will be spent working on problem areas of the routine. Enigma has four more competitions to prepare for this season, each held in high schools all over Virginia. They will be taking place in Sterling on Feb. 21, Chesapeake on March 14, and Alexandria on March 21. The final competition is championships, which will take place the weekend of March 28 and 29 at Hilton.

Until the next competition, Enigma will be changing a little bit of the routine and focusing on improving certain parts of the show to awe the judges.

The UMW color guard, which is entirely student run, requires no experience and is open to any new members. Since Enigma already has a routine and has started competing, any prospective new members will not be able to join until next year, but are welcome to come to practice and talk to current members. There are no tryouts, and anyone can learn.

"Some of our team hadn't touched a flag until this year," Connors said. "Anyone who is interested and willing to make the commitment would be more than welcome to join."

This Week in Town

Friday

The Transmitters
10 p.m.
Fatty J's
(540) 654-5855

Bellydancing at Aladin's
11 p.m.
(540) 372-7755

Saturday (Valentine's Day)

Valentine's Bash
Colonial Tavern
6 p.m. 'til close
\$10
(540) 373-1313

Singer/songwriter Kyle Davis
Kybecca
8:30 p.m.
(540) 373-333

Riverside Writers Group Meeting

speakers, critiques, and workshops offered.
bring your work.
1-4 p.m.
(540) 645-0549

Bluegrass FM Fall-Winter Series at Massaponax High School
Get your free ticket early!
(540) 582-9700

VA Step Teams Perform

◀ STEP, page 7

Team Essence from Gar-Field began their sketch in doctor coats and scrubs, looking over a patient who had had a heart attack. As they stepped, they chanted about the importance of having a heart.

At the end of the competition, certificates for most original steps, best dressed, most difficult choreography and, best showmanship were awarded in both the high school and collegiate di-

visions. Potomac and Alpha Phi Alpha each won a first place trophy for best overall performance.

"There was a lot of energy this year," senior Lauren Colson said. "It was very hard to get it to turn out like this. It's difficult to get colleges in here because we are so small and don't have any fraternities of our own."

While UMW does not have its own step team to compete, it has been host-

ing the Step Show for 20 years with the intention to get UMW more involved in multi-cultural events.

With the Step Show competition at a close, both WOC and BOND will continue to participate in various Black History Month Events for the rest of February.

The next on the schedule is a discussion hosted BOND Feb. 12 about the documentary, "What Black Men Think," which will be led by Clarence Tweedy, professor of English.

News

Outside the Fence



By HEATHER BRADY and
JESS MASULLI
Staff Writers

Regional



Courtesy of The Free Lance-Star

Rodney-Tyler

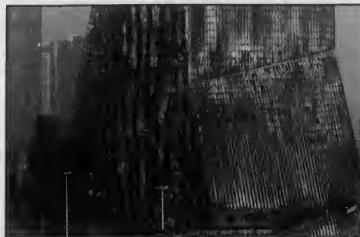
Stephan Rodney-Tyler, 20, of Stafford County was sentenced in Stafford Circuit Court to 20 years in prison with 17 years suspended, for assaulting a young Stafford man about a week before he died. He had already been convicted of involuntary manslaughter and two counts each of credit-card theft and forgery. Casey Welborn, 22, died April 11 as a result of a blow to the head. According to evidence presented by the prosecutors, the head injury occurred at a hotel party where there was underage drinking and drug use. Rodney-Tyler rented the room for the party and became angry with Welborn for striking a woman. Rodney-Tyler claimed that Welborn later jumped or fell from a third-floor balcony. Police found no evidence of such a fall. Welborn's injuries were not apparent to family and police. He refused to go to the hospital. Prosecutors said that Rodney-Tyler did not intend to kill Welborn. (*The Free Lance-Star*, Feb. 11; www.fredericksburg.com)

National

The bailout plan, announced by Treasury Secretary Timothy F. Geithner on Tuesday, Feb. 10, will add \$2.5 trillion to the failing U.S. economy. This amount far exceeds predictions and past government actions in the financial market. \$350 billion will come from the bailout fund. The rest will be from the Federal Reserve and private investors. Many economists expected Geithner to go into more detail on where and how the bailout funds would be used. Wall Street experts were disappointed that Geithner's speech followed the previous Bush administration's vague strategies in dealing with the economy, despite Geithner's criticism of the Bush administration. These criticisms came as the stock market dropped further. The stock market had been propped up by the hope of a comprehensive bailout plan. Geithner's speech drew criticism that the Obama administration's short term goal of transparency, was failing with the bailout.

(*The New York Times*, Feb. 11; www.nytimes.com)

Global



Courtesy of The New York Times

Photo by Alexander F. Yuan/Associated Press
The burnt Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Bei-jing.

Employees from a Chinese national television network took blame for igniting the fire that destroyed a luxury hotel and theater in Beijing. The network apologized for the damages caused by illegal pyrotechnics. The fire damaged the unfinished Mandarin Oriental Hotel, a building being constructed with fireproof materials. Many questions remained about why the fireproof materials burned so quickly and easily. According to a Beijing fire department, strong winds, toxic fumes, and a lack of working sprinklers contributed to the destruction. The fire was not prominently played in Chinese newspapers. Pictures of the burnt building were taken off of Chinese Internet portals. Xinhua, a Chinese newspaper, reported that one firefighter died and that six firefighters and a construction worker were injured. The Chinese media's reaction to the fire suggests that authorities are unsure of how to deal with the negative publicity that is being leaked by non-government sources.

(*The New York Times*, Feb. 11; www.nytimes.com)



Right: College Avenue.

Residential students are not allowed to park on College Avenue at any time. Confusion over this law has led to an increase in parking students this semester.

Parking Rules Enforced, Prompting More Tickets

◆ PARKING, page 1

in College Heights must have either a yellow or green city parking permit to park in the neighborhood.

The flyer also emphasizes the fact that cars without a proper university or city decal risk being ticketed and fined if caught parked in a restricted zone.

Knick said it is never too late for students to register for a decal, which are \$200 for the academic year and \$100 for a semester, and students who fail to properly register and park their vehicles also risk a \$200 fine if caught.

However, Knick said the police will apply the \$200 fine toward a decal if the student wishes to comply with University policy.

Students caught without a proper decal also risk administrative referral for intentional failure

to comply with university policies.

Knick said tickets written by a city police officer and tickets written by a university police officer are both Fredericksburg traffic tickets, and city ticket appeals must be done through the General District Court of Fredericksburg, not UWU.

"Cars in violation of the city's parking ordinances, which include College Avenue, are issued city parking tickets. These may be issued by city police or UMW police," Knick said.

A person charged with violating a parking ordinance must either pay the ticket at the Office of the City Treasurer or make an appointment to speak with the watch commander if the violator feels the ticket was issued in error.

According to Knick, the city issues penalties for failure to pay and has the right to summon violators to court for non-payment.

Knick is also a member of the Student Services Committee, and said student concerns regarding parking are often discussed by the committee. She has met twice with the Student Senate and once with the Commuting Student Association to talk about campus parking.

"Whenever a student group would like to facilitate a meeting, I will be happy to attend if my schedule permits. If not, I will have a representative attend on my behalf," Knick said, adding, "Many wonderful ideas have come from the students themselves, so I more than welcome the opportunity to meet and exchange ideas."

Knick said individual students may also contact the university police or the Office for Public Safety and Community Services with further parking comments, ideas, and suggestions.

Come to the Topher Bill Memorial Scholarship Auction!

Wednesday, Feb. 18

5 pm, Chandler 102

Bid on donations from UMW Faculty and Students!

All proceeds support Student Scholarships and RCASA

Bring your cash, your checks, and your friends!

For a full list of auction items, check out the bulletin board outside the 3rd floor Psych suite! Additional Info: Jean Bennett, 654-1054



What's Up In Campus Dining?

Get To Know Us!

Meet Ann Hill - Cashier At The Eagle's Nest

After working in food preparation for the Market Fare Foods Company for eight years, Ann came to work in our Jazzman's Cafe two years ago. Last fall she became an Eagle's Nest cashier, and the students love her! Ann says the feeling is mutual! A self-described people person, Ann really likes being around the students and providing them with great service at the Nest. She is a good listener and a great problem solver, so students feel totally at ease asking her for help. Sometimes they even ask her for personal advice!

Ann lives in King George and is very active in the First Baptist Ambar Church of King George, and she enjoys listening to Gospel music. Ann is grateful to have the opportunity to work with students here at UMW, and would like to give her mom all the credit for helping her become the friendly and helpful person she is today.



 UMW DINING SERVICES

UPCOMING EVENTS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13 - LAST DAY TO REGISTER FOR THE CHOCOLATE CREATIONS CULINARY SEMINAR

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19 - LAST DAY TO REGISTER FOR THE CHOCOLATE CREATIONS SEMINAR
In this 3-hour seminar on Sunday, February 22 you will make all kinds of delicious chocolate creations! Cost: \$25. Open to the entire UMW community and the general public. Minimum enrollment required. For more information go to www.umwdining.com.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15 - THEATRE BRUNCH WITH CASH BAR!! Purchase a ticket for the February 15th UMW production of *Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)* and enjoy Sunday Brunch in the Faculty and Staff Dining Room (with wait staff!). **Brunch cost for UMW students: regular meal card swipe!** Brunch cost for all others: \$15. Advance reservations required. Call the UMW box office at 654-1124, or go to www.umwdining.com for more information.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17 - CHEFS' FARE!! 5 PM to 7 PM at Seacobeck Hall. Don't miss our most popular event of the year - our annual Chefs' Fare competition! In our "Tunes and Tastes" Fare, chefs from four other universities will join our chefs in preparing fabulous dishes that illustrate various musical genres. Then YOU get to vote for your favorite chef! Please come out and enjoy an evening of great food and music, and vote for our home chefs, too! Get more information at www.umwdining.com. Cost: regular meal card swipe. Without a meal plan, the cost is \$9.70 plus tax.



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Sports



Poor Economy Doesn't Ignore Pro Sports

By ZACHARY MORETTI
Staff Writer

If you own a television, read a newspaper, or if you've checked up on your stocks lately, you probably know that the economy isn't doing well these days, to say the least.

However, few people really see the effect that this recession is having on sports. In a country where the professional sporting industries seem untouchable and everyday people watch as athletes cash their million dollar checks, it is hard for people to see how these businesses are being affected. But the fact is that the sporting industry is not immune to the economic troubles that this nation is enduring either.

In October the NBA laid off 9 percent of their staff and the NFL followed suit December by firing 10 percent of their staff as well. NASCAR is not above it either, as they are forced to sit back and watch as racing teams merge, make massive layoffs, or just call it quits on the sport all together. The MLB appears to be the least affected by these difficult times, but when one looks deeper, they can see the drastic changes in the free agent market. Sports may seem impervious to these rough times, but that just isn't the case.

In October, NBA Commissioner David Stern announced that the league would be forced to lay off about 80 workers, which accounts for about 9 percent of the overall staff, to deal with the economic downturn.

"We made a decision some months ago that the economy was going to be a b*tch, so we began [some] belt-tightening," Stern told reporters before an exhibition game in London.

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell sent out a memo to the league's employees in December announcing that the NFL would have to do some belt-tightening of their own. He went on to cut 10

percent of his staff, which resulted in 150 workers losing their jobs.

"These are difficult and painful steps," Goodell said. "But they are necessary in the current economic environment. I would like to be able to report that we are immune to the troubles around us, but we are not."

So while the NBA and NFL players may still be racking in their millions of dollars, the behind the scenes people vital to the two sports are put on the chopping block and left jobless.

The MLB differs from the NBA and NFL in that it does not have a salary cap, meaning there is no limit to how much a team can spend so long as they have the money. With that said, look at the contract Gil Meche received in December of 2006; five-year, \$55 million deal to pitch for the Kansas City Royals. Now, Meche would have been considered a middle-of-the-road starter with some potential at the time (5-44 with a 4.65 ERA for his career when he signed the deal), yet he received \$11 million a year.

Today you have one of the best hitters in baseball, Manny Ramirez, still unsigned. As well as players like Adam Dunn and Bobby Abreu who only this week were able to find work, and for a substantial discount. However, if the economy was back to the place it was in late 2006/early 2007, then these players would have been signed long ago.

While the NBA, NFL, and MLB are all clearly taking their fair share of hits from the economic troubles, NASCAR appears to be taking the hardest hit of all. Then again, the first three sports mentioned primarily use some sort of a ball to play with while NASCAR uses state of the art vehicles



Courtesy of www.buzzyeah.com

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell (right) and NBA Commissioner David Stern (above) were both required to make layoffs due to the current state of the economy.



Courtesy of www.stampedblue.com

that cost much more than any basketball, football, or baseball.

When looking at the cost of a stock car, one cannot simply look at just the cost of the vehicle itself, but all the money that goes into that vehicle as well. According to Hendrick Motorsports, the average cost of an engine for a racecar is in the range of \$45,000 to \$80,000.

Jim Mackinnon of the Akron Beacon Journal reported that each team is allowed 16 sets of four tires per race at a cost of about \$350 to \$450 per tire. That accumulates to over \$20,000 dollars a race just for tires. And that's not even including maintenance and storage of the vehicles or the fuel that's needed to make them run either.

So how is NASCAR up and running with so many expenses to pay? One word: sponsors. The economic decline was causing some pretty hefty

layoffs from multiple racing teams, but the lack of sponsorship is what is truly crippling the sport as it is forcing smaller teams to merge together with other teams or fold due to the inability to find adequate sponsorship.

A bad economy affects everyone. Just because a sport is glamorized and put on national television for all to see does not mean that those associated with that sport aren't feeling the same sting that the rest of us are from these trying times. Maybe the athletes aren't taking too big a hit to their wallets, but let us not forget about the other people who rely on the sport as a source of income to pay their bills and support their family.

Let us not be so naive as to think that these businesses are not like every other business dealing with a dreadful economy. Whether we want to admit it or not, these organizations are battling to survive just like everyone else.

Peace Corps on campus

Learn how you can use your degree and experience to impact the lives of others...and your own.

Wednesday, February 18

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Woodard Campus Center
Meeting Room # 2
5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.



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for Spring Break?
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Contact Joey Merkel
jmerk5zi@umw.edu

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Courses are available through the Instituto di Lingue e Cultura: Lingua Si in Orvieto, Italy.

Cost of the program is \$3,900 for accommodation (apartments arranged by Lingua Si) in a double room and \$4,066 in a single room, and it includes tuition, UMW fees, health insurance, airport transfers, excursions, and taxes.

A \$500 deposit along with the first payment installment (\$1700 for a single room, \$1783 for a single room) is due February 23 and the final balance is due March 31.

For more information please contact Dr. Federico Schneider at fschneid@umw.edu or the Office of International Academic Services at www.umw.edu/international.



Sports

"You gotta be a man to play baseball for a living, but you gotta have a lot of little boy in you, too."

— Roy Campanella



Courtesy of wikipedia.org

When Steroids Go In, Innocence Comes Out

By JOEY MERKEL
Sports Editor

Even as a kid, I never really fawned over the fantasy superheroes in comic books or TV shows. They weren't real. Instead, it was the athletes that I always wanted to be like. Being strong, fast and to be able to play a game that I loved and make money doing it, now that was a dream.

Growing up, it was the "juniors" that I always looked up to.



Alex Rodriguez in 2001 after signing a 10-year/\$252 million contract with the Texas Rangers. Rodriguez claims he began using steroids in 2001.

Specifically, Ken Griffey and Cal Ripken. A Baltimore native, Ripken Jr. was probably an easy choice for a hero. He was honest, hard working and a team player who played in a record 2,632 consecutive games.

For Griffey it was pure baseball. The prettiest swing, the biggest smile, he was even the reason why I started wearing my hat backward. He epitomized what a professional athlete should be; no scandals, humble and good to fans.

I was out to lunch on Saturday afternoon when I heard the news that hasn't stopped being discussed on ESPN ever since. Paying at the register, there was a TV above the bar tuned to CNN or MSNBC, even now I can't remember. It was up on the screen for such a short amount of time I thought I had to have been reading it wrong.

"Report: Sports Illustrated says Alex Rodriguez tested positive for steroids in 2003."

Arguably the best player in baseball over the last 15 years, it was a shock to say the least.

Monday

morning, Rodriguez sat down with ESPN's Peter Gammons. He didn't drag it out like Roger Clemens. He didn't deny like Barry Bonds. He admitted to using steroids between 2001 and 2003 after signing a 10-year/\$252 million contract with the Texas Rangers.

He looked us all in the eye and told the truth. But do we believe it? If no one can prove he used it before or after those dates, who's to say that he isn't lying again? How are we supposed to believe that a man making \$25 million a year when he tells us that he didn't even know what he was taking? Or whom he got it from?

It didn't hit me right away how this

would impact my life as an aspiring sports writer until I heard that there were still 103 players on that same list who tested positive. I almost broke down. Now in what is known as the "steroid era" in baseball, I began to wonder if my favorites would inevitably be on that list. It hurt.

Griffey? Ripken? Is it worse that for them it would make sense? How do you play that many games

straight? How could Griffey continue to keep coming back after season after season of running into the center field walls as if he was a new crash-test dummy prototype?

Or is it worse that I still believe in these guys enough that they would never do something like that. I may always end up forgiving them. Maybe I give too many chances. But after Rodriguez, Clemens, Bonds and the list of 104, "innocent until proven guilty" seems not to matter anymore. No matter what the achievement or milestone, everything is tainted.

And what about the list? Is it fair to fans, to players, to the media, that this list may not surface? Do we want it to? Do players deserve their fate? And the players who did play by the rules; shouldn't they have their names cleared? Don't we, as fans, deserve to know who to root for?

Now, at 21, I finally realize why we have superheros like Batman and Superman. They protect us. They don't cross over to evil. They don't let us down when we need them the most, and though they are perfect in every way, they never



Courtesy of Jed Jacobsohn / Allsport
Ken Griffey Jr. swings during the 1998 All Star Game.

make us feel bad about ourselves for idolizing them.

Baseball great Roy Campanella once said "You gotta be a man to play baseball for a living, but you gotta have a lot of little boy in you, too." Maybe some of these guys forgot that.

I talked to my Dad about the whole thing a couple days ago online. I told him if Griffey were on the list, I would change professions. I still think that's true.

In Case You Missed It

By JOEY MERKEL
Staff Writer

Men's Tennis

The No. 10 ranked University of Mary Washington men's tennis team took down Division I opponents University of Richmond and George Mason University this past Saturday in match play.

Seniors John James and Jason Dunn and junior Evan Goff led the way for the Eagles, each winning their respective singles matches, after which they took down both schools in the doubles portion.

Sophomore Bryan Parrish, the only player to compete in all four events, also showcased his talents Saturday. Parrish went 1-1 in the singles portion, and followed it up with a strong 2-0 performance in doubles with partner Goff.

UMW beat GMU 5-2 after making easy work of University of Richmond 6-1. Come out and support the men's team as they take on Liberty University this Sunday at 11 a.m. and Averett University at 3 p.m.

Men's Basketball

Senior guard Matt Hale scored his 1,000th career point at Mary Washington after connecting on a free throw with just 11 seconds remaining in the team's 86-80 conference win against Gallaudet University.

Junior center Brandon Altmann had a team high 23 points and added eight rebounds to go along with it. However, in the end all five Eagle starters were in double figures. Senior guard Kevin Storus added five steals to his 13 points, freshman

forward Tad Dickman led the team with nine rebounds and senior forward Kieran Whitworth also added 12 points.



Courtesy of Clint Othen
Senior Ashton Mitchell, here against former No. 1 Kean University on Dec. 13, had six points and five rebounds in 18 minutes against Gallaudet.

The Eagles improve to 8-4 in CAC play with an overall 11-9 record. The men's team took on St. Mary's College of Md. last night at 8 p.m., however the game ended to late for the results to be published.

The team takes on Wesley College next Wednesday at home at 8 p.m.

Women's Basketball

The UMW women's basketball team went into Gallaudet on Saturday and embarrassed the Bison in a 75-32 rout.

In a game where no player played for more than 21 minutes, freshman guard Katie Wimmer led all players with 13 points and 8 rebounds.

In a game where every single player on the team scored at least one point, and recorded at least one rebound, the Eagles were clearly the superior team in Saturday's match in Washington D.C.

The women's team, which is now 17-4 overall and 9-3 in CAC play, takes on Wesley College at 6 p.m. next Wednesday.

Upcoming at UMW:

Saturday:
Women's Tennis vs. Radford University, 10 a.m.
Women's Tennis vs. Oberlin College, 4 p.m.
Baseball vs. Messiah College, Noon.



Courtesy of Clint Othen
Freshman Jenna McRae, here against Salisbury on Jan. 28, had seven points and five rebounds against Gallaudet. She was named CAC player of the week for women's basketball on Feb. 2.

Men's Lacrosse vs. Virginia Wesleyan College 1 p.m.
Sunday:
Men's Tennis vs. Liberty University, 11 a.m.
Men's Tennis vs. Averett University, 3 p.m.

The Periscope



UMW Junior Angela Francis learned a lot about Rastafarian culture and South African wildlife during her semester abroad.

The Wild Life in South Africa

by Angela Francis I may have been abroad for UMW's fall semester, but it was spring in South Africa and I definitely made the most of my "spring" break. Going through the American Institute of Foreign Study (AIFS) at Stellenbosch University, a spring break adventure along South Africa's Garden Route was planned for the students and it was nothing short of amazing.

Despite a long van ride and a driver with an unfortunate penchant for ABBA, Day One's adventures began at the Cango Caves in Oudtshoorn. After taking a walking tour through the caves and seeing amazing limestone formations, we traveled on to Cango Ostrich Farm. While I did skip out on riding the ostriches (they have a lot of dandruff), I was the lucky recipient of a "kiss" from an ostrich named Betsy. It wasn't exactly the best kiss of my life, but hey, how many people can say they've kissed an ostrich? The day concluded in Plettenberg Bay after several more hours of driving and ABBA.

Day Two began with some relaxation on the

beach and my first experience with the Indian Ocean. As a Virginia Beach resident, I have to be honest and admit that the Indian trumps the Atlantic- I highly recommend it. We then went to Tenikwa Wildlife Awareness Centre where we were introduced to various African Wildcats. While the cats that we were around had been introduced to humans, the ultimate purpose of the centre was to help abused and/or injured animals return to the wild. I was one of the lucky few who got to pet an adult male cheetah, and one of the unlucky few who was bitten by a cheetah cub.

Our next wildlife adventure of the day took us to a monkey reserve, rather unimaginatively called Monkeyland. My reservations after hearing the name were dispelled after setting foot on the premises, as I walked into a forest that was teeming with different species of monkeys.

After my flat mate's Ray Bans were stolen by an especially naughty monkey it was time to return to the dreaded van/ABBA combo. Nevertheless, I was extremely high spirits because the highlight of my vacation would soon be upon us.

On Day Three of my spring break not only did I take an incredible tree canopy tour over the Tsitsikamma Forest, but I did the world's highest bungee jump. The zip-line tour through the canopy was great, but that wasn't the most exciting part of the day. Bloukrans's Bridge bungee jump claims a 216m fall and holds the Guinness World's Record for World's Highest Commercial Bungee Bridge. I was expecting the nervous butterflies to kick in any second, but in the end I was too excited to be nervous and jumped off the bridge with joy.

I'd go so far as to say that the 5 solid seconds of freefall were some of the best seconds of my life. The whiplash that followed a second later wasn't quite as cool, but still totally worth it. My bungee experience is something I'll never forget and always be glad that I did.

Day Four of my vacation was spent at Jeffery's Bay, one the world's greatest surf capitals. While I didn't end up surfing, I did go on a horseback tour of the dunes which was incredibly beautiful.

I enjoyed the relaxing day, and finished up the evening in a lively backpacker's called



Photos courtesy of Angela Francis

Island Vibe. I didn't get too much sleep seeing as my room was located next to the bar, but rest assured it resulted in many fun nights.

Day Five of my spring break was just your average day, you know, driving around with wild elephants, the usual.

At Addo Elephant Park, an elephant reserve, my friend and I saw elephants of all sorts, including a week-old calf which was quite possibly the cutest thing I've ever seen.

To my disappointment I learned that at Addo, and Kruger National Park which I visited later, you could not touch or feed the wild elephants. This of course shattered all of my dreams of befriending an elephant and riding through the African wilderness together, but in retrospect that may have been a little unrealistic to begin with.

Day Six, the final day of my African spring break, was spent in a Rastafarian township. Now first when I say Rastafarian, I'm not talking about the kids at your high school who listened to Bob Marley, rocked dreads, and parti-

cated in certain illegal activities on a regular basis, but I'm talking about real Rastafarians.

Rastafarianism is a practiced religion and in the Rasta township, Judah Square, most of the inhabitants were practicing members. Of course, I'm not saying that the Rastafarians here did not worship Bob Marley, rock dreads, or participate in certain illegal activities on a regular basis, but it was ultimately about their religion.

After a tour of their temple we took a nature hike through a reserve within their township. I left that day with a new understanding and respect for Rastafarians, but also quite a few laughs to say the least.

So, after all is said and done, I feel pretty confident that I can boast to having the ultimate spring break. While the majority of my time in South Africa was spent doing Community Development and Service work, I made sure to pack in as many new experiences as possible during my time off, and I'd say my vacation was successful.

READ ON TO EXPLORE:

The University of Mary Washington currently offers study abroad programs in the following countries:

Ghana, China, Egypt, England, France, Germany, Ireland, Ecuador, Italy, Spain and Wales.

In addition to these, there are also various faculty-led programs that go abroad during the summer that include studying in the following countries: Jordan, the European Capitals Tour, France, Germany, Mexico, "Psychology in Europe," Spain, Honduras, Argentina, and Hong Kong. For more information please contact our staff at 540. 654. 1870 (see more on the page B3).

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Once Upon a Late Night in Buenos Aires...

by KJ Adler

"Okay, let's meet at 10:30, near the Olleros metro stop. We'll figure it out from there." Maesa's voice said through my eighty peso cell phone. That's less than thirty dollars in U.S. currency.

I dressed quickly, with less than twenty minutes to get ready and walk down six blocks to our meeting point. We got there, Maesa, Caitlin, and I, as complete fledglings to our new city, the place we would call home for the next five months. We stood by the metro stop, staring at the map for what felt like hours, trying to figure out where we were and where we were supposed to go.

Maesa decided to act as the leader. Pointing to a street name that I could barely pronounce, my companions and I walked four blocks away from the main drag, walking into a labyrinth of old forgotten streets with traces of European influenced houses and gardens that cried out that this region was still tropical, despite its paved appearance.

Each turn presented new street names with the same old look of French-influenced architecture. Every few blocks, our fearless leader Maesa stopped us and looked at the map with determination beneath a street lamp. We were walking to an unknown apartment where unknown people were standing and speaking in a language that was completely unknown to me.

I had only been speaking Spanish for less than four months before entering Buenos Aires. Already, the language and culture overwhelmed my senses. In a strange world, my nervous friends and I huddled together to relish in a sense of familiarity and security.

We continued to walk on. It was summer in the U.S. but in Buenos Aires the rainy season, their equivalent of winter, was just ending so we stood close to each other with the little warm clothing we owned piled layer upon layer.

"This way!" Maesa stated with certainty. Caitlin and I followed, happy to avoid the stressful role of leader.

We came across another main drag, buses and cars whizzing by as we stood, helpless and uncertain about our next move. We were next to a kiosko, a small vendor stand, where Caitlin decided to act brave and talk to the vendor.

I watched in amazement as she smiled at the strange

man and spoke to him in a tongue that I could barely understand.

She nodded her head as she said the street name and the man smiled back at her, repeating the word. After a garbled group of syllables were exchanged, Caitlin left with a sense of accomplishment following her close behind.

"You weren't far off Maesa." She said over the pitter patter of rain drops. "It's only one street over."

We rushed in that direction, eager to find a roof and a warm room.

We were going to a distant friend of Maesa's. They knew each other from obscure family relations but in an act of classic Argentinian hospitality, the young girl invited us to a house party, promising us a nice time and an opportunity to meet new people.

We finally came upon the correct number and street name. We buzzed in, Maesa at the lead of the group. She told the guard of the apartment complex that she was a friend of one of the girls living here and simply needed to speak with her on the intercom.

She buzzed. Once. Twice. Three times. But there was no answer. Caitlin and I shifted nervously as we felt the glare of the guard bury into our necks. Where was this girl? friend of Maesa?

Maesa shrugged, as unsure as we were. We were all in the same position. No fearless speaker could help the group. Only this my her permissive voice on the other end of the intercom could help us reach our destination.

One last try. Maesa pushed as Caitlin and I breath. Wait. Wait. Wait...

"Halo?" A girl's voice asked on the other end.

"Hola! Juliette? Es Maesa?"

"Maesa!!!! Hola, mi amor!"

We were saved, from the cold, the hard stare of the

>>See 'Noches'B4



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Lessons Learned in Thailand

UMW Sophomore Katie Matusik steps outside her comfort zone to get used to life in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

By Katie Matusik

Yesterday, toward the end of my lunch, I glanced down and noticed a strange looking black lump in my food. I looked closer. It was a large black ant! Gingerly, I picked it out with my fork and placed it to the side of my plate. As I was arranging my food for the next bite, I noticed a similar looking lump near one of the prongs of my fork. Another ant. And another. And another. A thorough sifting rewarded me with a handful of well-cooked ants. I had already finished two-thirds of my meal.

Four months ago, if this had happened in the United States, I would have sent my meal back, utterly repulsed. But after a semester in Chiang Mai, Thailand, ants are only one of the many unique things I have eaten during my study abroad experience. Nowadays, it seems ridiculous for me to imagine rejecting edible food when just a few kilometers to the west there are millions of displaced people starving in the jungles of Burma. This is the day-to-day reality of living Thailand.

Thailand is on the opposite side of the world; almost as far away from Fredericksburg as you can get. Any further and you begin getting closer. The average American knows little to nothing about Southeast Asia. Before I left, a number of people asked me: "Do you speak Taiwanese?" Um no, I do not, and neither do most people in Thailand.

At times, it can be incredibly confusing to be caught up in such a myriad of different cultures and attitudes. Rice is literally served with every meal. Traffic drives on the other side of

the road. To monolingual American ears, the language is completely foreign and complicated (in Thai, the words "near" and "far" are exactly the same except for the tone). Since my arrival, our dorm has adopted four stray dogs. Toilet paper is virtually non-existent. There are no knives, couches, or trashcans. No matter where you go, there will be at least one wat and one 7-11. And as an American, I get to field questions like: "Do people in America only eat hamburgers?" and "What's the difference between a stove and an oven?"

As part of my program, I got to do a homestay in a Lisu village. The Lisu are one of Thailand's many ethnic minority groups, all of which suffer from marginalization, discrimination, and lack of citizenship.

Citizenship in Thailand is not something you are automatically afforded. Before coming to Thailand, I had never realized how lucky I was to have citizenship and the rights and privileges that it provides.

Without citizenship, it is very difficult for ethnic minorities in Thailand to own land, join labor unions, and access social welfare, not to mention how impossible it is to vote and travel abroad. Most villages do not even have a McDonalds. My host family lived in a one-room thatched hut with a dirt floor and no windows.

I have never considered myself to be rich; in Thailand, the mere purchase of a plane ticket warrants this status.

This opportunity has really shown me how fortunate my way of life is and how lucky I am. It has really shown me how rewarding experiences outside of my comfort zone can be.

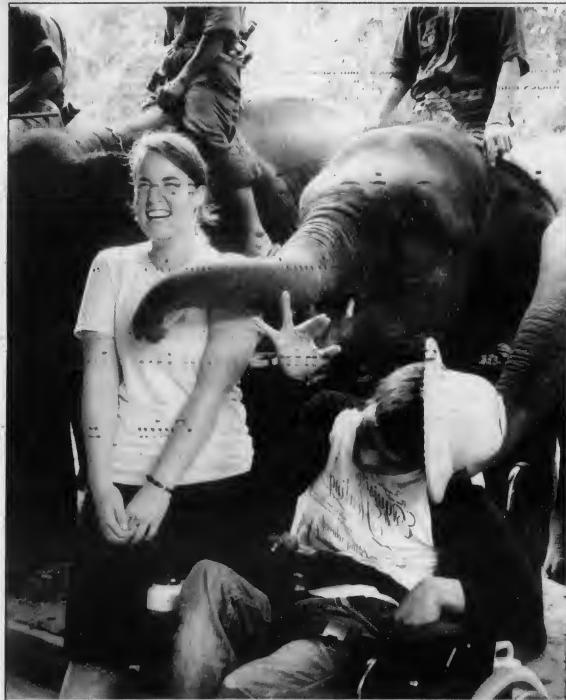


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The city of Chef Chouen in Morocco.

Photo courtesy of Samantha Oliver



Photo courtesy of KJ Adler

KJ Adler poses in front of a painted wall in Buenos Aires, Argentina

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Publisher
International Academic Services

'Una Noche Tarde' in Buenos Aires

>Argentina continued from B2

security guard and the imminence of a long walk home. We got in and took the elevator up to the eighth floor of the apartment complex. The place had a large living room with a scant amount of furniture apart from some sporadic chairs, a couch and a table covered with bottles of alcohol.

Maesa immediately took to the scene, speaking with random kids in Spanish. I, on the other hand, was terrified and confined to a glass of Fernet and a chair in the corner. I sat, overwhelmed by the familiarity everyone shared with one another while I remained confined to my lack of Spanish comprehension.

We stayed for what felt like hours. I had finally gained enough confidence to talk with some girls, using the sparse vocabulary I had and some over-exaggerated hand gestures to convey what our favorite movies and music were.

More and more people continued to pour in as we spoke, all yelling out friendly greetings and jokes that had everyone laughing but myself and my comrades, who by this point had gravitated back towards the security of a familiar face and language.

We discovered that the one friend of Maesa's had passed out drunk. We took it as our cue to leave.

"Well... what time is it?" I asked.
"2 a.m." Caitlin said. She was the only one in our group who religiously wore a watch.

"Well, my roommates said they would be heading over to a club at this point. Shall I call them and we can all meet up?"

The two girls smiled at my proposal and after a quick chat with my fellow tourist housemates, Joe and Ed, we were on our way to club Nació. Our night was just getting started at 2:30 a.m.

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